



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Albert Balagso

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REGIONAL
PARKS VIA ADOPT-A-PARK**

DATE: May 23, 2006

Approved	/s/	Date	05/24/06
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RECOMMENDATION

Continue current Adopt-A-Park efforts in San José Regional Parks.

BACKGROUND

This memorandum is prepared in response to the Mayor's March Budget Message for 2006-2007 which directed staff to explore expanding the Adopt-A-Park Program to Regional Parks. This memorandum is in response to that direction.

ANALYSIS

The Adopt-A-Park Program is a Citywide volunteer program that recruits and educates residents to assist in the general care and maintenance of parks and other parkland on City property. The Adopt-A-Park program also educates the public about creating and preserving clean and safe parks for everyone. This volunteer program unites and supports all people interested in improving San José's neighborhood open spaces. Our volunteers include: individuals, neighborhood associations, schools, church groups, senior citizens, youth groups, scouts, and businesses. Particular park areas that may be adopted include: sports fields, exercise courses, flower beds, trees, shrubs, playgrounds, courts, and undeveloped parkland. Volunteers care for their adopted area in the following ways: picking up litter, removing graffiti, sweeping courts and pathways, pulling weeds, raking leaves, and reporting park hazards. Regional parks offer more challenging opportunities, which range from trimming brush along trail walkways, correcting environmental damage to spreading wood chips in children's playgrounds. Registered volunteers receive training on safety guidelines and City park ordinances. Staff also provides participants with appropriate supplies and tools, T-shirts, and an official approval letter and certificate of adoption.

ANALYSIS (Cont'd.)

There are currently 10 regional parks on the Adopt-A-Park inventory: Almaden Lake, Alum Rock, Edenvale Gardens, Emma Prusch Farm, Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, Kelley Park, Lake Cunningham, Municipal Rose Garden, Overfelt Gardens, and Plaza de Caesar Chavez. Volunteers have been identified for eight out of the ten regional parks. Two of these parks are currently open for adoption: Overfelt Gardens and the Municipal Rose Garden. Year-to-date, a total of 142 volunteers have actively contributed 1,022 Adopt-A-Park hours in improving the appearance and safety of these regional sites. Organized non-profit groups and other volunteers working through the Parks Division have committed an additional 5,000 hours.

Volunteers are recruited for these sites via the Adopt-A-Park Program Web site, (www.sjadoptapark.org), the Volunteer San José program, Adopt-A-Park signs located at each individual site that state "Open for Adoption" and word of mouth. In the coming year, the Adopt-A-Park program will work with the Parks Division to identify maintenance projects that will better improve our parks' conditions and are suitable for Adopt-A-Park volunteers to further enhance the existing program in regional parks.

CONCLUSION

The Adopt-A-Park Program has been successful in identifying Adopt-A-Park volunteers for eight of the City's ten regional parks. PRNS will continue to look for opportunities to increase volunteer opportunities and to keep the Council abreast of those efforts.

/s/

ALBERT BALAGSO

Acting Director

Department of Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services